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The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I did not say that. Mr. Nambiar suggested that it has been declared a famine-stricken area. I said that merely a declaration that a particular area is famine stricken or Communist-stricken will not solve the problem; that we should increase the economic development of the area and that Government were attempting to do that. In spite of this responsible and sympathetic answer, I do not see why hon. Members think otherwise."

Dr. K. B. MENON :—" May I submit, Sir, that the question-hour is a war of wits and the humour and insinuations injected into these questions and answers add spice to the answers to questions. Denying that will be depriving the House of the liveliness of the whole situation."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Regarding Question No. 1425, the hon. Member Sri Dharmalingam is not in his place. The answer will be printed in the proceedings.

" The hon. Member Sri Ratnam is not in his place. The answer will be . . ."

Sri A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" I am putting the question of Sri Ratnam on his behalf, Sir."

Sri V. GOVINDASWAMI NAIDU :—" Sir, I shall put the question (1425) on behalf of Sri Dharmalingam."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" Why did not the hon. Member stand up and say so when I called out that question? Hereafter, when I call the name of the Member in whose name the question stands some other Member, if he wishes to put that question, should immediately stand up and say that he is putting the question. Mr. Govindaswami Naidu will now put the question No. 1425."

Appointment of Block Development Officers

* 1425 *Q.*—Sri V. GOVINDASWAMI NAIDU (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Block Development Officers appointed in the year 1953, are gazetted officers while other Block Development Officers appointed in the year 1954 are non-Gazetted Officers;

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(*c*) how many officers are appointed as non-gazetted officers?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) When the National Extension Service Scheme was launched first in 28 Blocks in October 1953, the Government considered that the Block Development Officers should be Gazetted Officers in the scale of Rs. 230—20/2—310—30/2—400 in the initial period when the National Extension

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Service scheme was introduced to enable the scheme being put on a sound footing. With the experience gained, it was found that the Blocks could be manned by non-gazetted officers of the rank of Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. When therefore the scheme was extended to ten more blocks in the State (besides the ten in Tanjore district) in October 1954, the Government decided to appoint non-gazetted Block Development Officers of the grade of Tahsildars (Rs. 200—10—300) in these additional blocks. Under the National Extension Service Scheme prepared specially for Tanjore district, the blocks have been placed in charge of Deputy Tahsildars in the scale of Rs. 150—5—200 called Taluk Development Officers working under Tahsildars.

"(c) Seventeen."

Sri D. KRISHNAMURTHI GOUNDER :—" எல்லோரையும் ஒரே நிலைமையில் வைக்க சர்க்கார் முயற்சி செய்வார்களா ? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" எல்லோரையும் ஒரே நிலைமையில் வைக்கவேண்டும் என்ற பிரச்னை அல்ல. வேலைக்குத் தகுந்தபடியும் யோக்யதைக்குத் தகுந்தபடியும் எடுத்துக்கொள்ள வேண்டியதாக இருக்கிறது. இனிஷியேடிவ்க்குத் தகுந்தபடி ஸ்டேடஸ் கொடுக்கப்படுகிறது."

Water-supply works in South Arcot.

* 1426 Q.—Sri A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR (on behalf of Sri A. Ratnam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(a) the amount of grant for 1953–54 given to the South Arcot district that has been spent so far and the number of works including the constructions of works for protected water-supply in the district;

(b) how many works are under execution; and

(c) the amount so far spent for rural water-supply?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) The amount spent by the Government on well works in South Arcot district during 1953–54 was Rs. 1,68,944.

The number of works taken up for execution during that year was 161 and the number of works completed 49.

" (b) 112.

" (c) Rs. 14,17,022 (from) 1939–40 to 1954–54."

Sri A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have any proposal to supply protected drinking water to Kadambadur firka out of this amount? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" A separate question may be put, Sir."